

METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR STORING, UPDATING, TRANSPORTING,  
AND LAUNCHING PERSONALIZED COMPUTER SETTINGS AND  
APPLICATIONS

ABSTRACT: A method and an apparatus for transporting user-specific information from one personal computer to another are described. One version of the system utilizes pocket-sized USB flash memory devices (USB Drives). When the USB Drive is connected to a first computer, typically the user's everyday computer, user-specific information, such as email account settings, address book, sent and received emails, etc. is captured on the USB Drive. When the USB Drive is plugged into a second computer, typically a publicly-accessible or borrowed computer, and an application is launched, such as Outlook, user-specific information is temporarily loaded from the USB Drive into the Outlook application. Consequently, the user is able to work on the borrowed computer as if he is working on his everyday computer at home or in the office. Updated information, such as new emails received, is automatically saved to the USB Drive for subsequent transport to the everyday computer.